

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Soviet Merchant Marine Navigation Schools	DATE DISTR.	4 May 1955	
		NO. OF PAGES	4	
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. [] the USSR had a total of 12 navigation schools, including three with five forms (high) and nine with four forms (intermediate). In addition, there were also fishery and inland navigation schools, number and location of which were unknown [] except for Riga. According to the information received, the schools were distributed as follows: Arctic Sea: 1 four form (intermediate) school in Murmansk. White Sea: 1 four form (intermediate) in Arkhangelsk. Baltic Sea: 1 five form (high) school in Leningrad, called Vysheye Inzhinernoye Uchilishche Imeni Makarova (Higher Engineering School, named after Makarov), 1 four form (intermediate) navigation school and 1 four form (intermediate) fishery navigation school in Riga; and 1 four form (intermediate) navigation school in Tallinn (Reval). Black Sea: 1 five form (high) school in Odessa, 1 four form (intermediate) school in Kherson, 1 four form (intermediate) school in Batumi. Sea of Azov: 1 four form (intermediate) navigation school in Taganrog, 1 four form (intermediate) in Rostov on the Don River. Pacific Ocean: 1 five form (high) navigation school in Vladivostok, 1 four form (intermediate) navigation school in Nikolayevsk.

2. Every Soviet citizen (including women) is entitled to apply for admission to the navigation school, provided that the following conditions are met:

Age-17;
 Completion of an eight form (class) school;
 Certified membership in the Communist Youth Organization (Komsomol);
 Good-conduct certificate (issued by local militia);
 Military medical examination certificate.

The letter of application with the required certificates, documents, etc., had to be submitted to the head of the respective navigation school. The students were accommodated in special boarding houses. Houses were converted or new buildings erected for this purpose, and were always located in the vicinity of the navigation school. For example, the students in Arkhangelsk were accommodated in 10-

S-E-C-R-E-T

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI	SEC				
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	-----	--	--	--	--

(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

-2-

man rooms. In addition, a mess room, one reading and work room, and a hall for gymnastics were available. A former naval or merchant marine officer was head of the boarding house. The students were accommodated in the 10-man rooms according to the specialist or general courses they attended, and the head of the room was a student of the previous course. The rooms were furnished barracks-fashion, the furniture consisted of ~~the beds~~, five lockers, clothes pegs, and a cuspidor. Separate rooms were available for washing. The library in the reading and working room was well equipped with professional and entertaining books. The books were issued by the head of the boarding house.

3. Clothing was provided by the government and resembled the navy uniforms, the only difference being the absence of epaulets and cockades. Each student received the following articles of clothing:

- Uniform great coat—one.
- Uniform jacket—one.
- Flap trousers, black—one pair.
- Sailor's shirts, dark blue—two.
- White sailor's shirts with blue collar—two.
- Sailor's visorless cap—one.
- Cap ribbon with name of navigation school—one.
- Leather waist belt—one.
- Lace boots, black—one pair.
- Leather boots, black—one pair.
- Gym shoes, white—one pair.
- Drawers, stockinet, white—two.
- Vests, stockinet, white-and-blue horizontal stripes—two.
- Sports shorts, blue—one pair.
- Sports shirt, white—one.
- Gloves, woolen—one pair.
- Socks, woolen—two pairs.
- Puttees—two pairs.
- Handkerchiefs, white—two.

Shortly before 1 May, each student received a pair of white trousers and two cap covers. Shaving and mending material had to be paid for by the students from their pay. The washing was done free of charge at the boarding house.

4. It was reported that food was good and plentiful. The students received three meals daily prepared at the home and served in the mess. They could make tea themselves at any time until 2200. The daily food bill was unknown.
5. Pay was rated according to the respective courses attended by the students. A student of the first course got a monthly pay of 75 rubles; the pay for the second, third, and fourth course was 150, 200, and 275 rubles, respectively. For those undergoing practical training afloat, the pay was twice as much.
6. All books and writing materials needed for the courses were issued to the students free of charge by the school. Instruction books were available in sufficient numbers to provide each student with the books he needed. The books were kept in a library belonging to the school, in charge of an instructor and were issued by him to the students at the beginning of each term against a receipt, and collected again at the end of the term. He also saw that the books were repaired or replaced during the vacations. All books, with the exception of the manuals for foreign waters (pilot books), were written in Russian. Even the Nautical Almanac, which, until 1936 or 1937, was only available in English, has been replaced by a Russian copy.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

-3-

7. The first school year began on 1 September and ended on 31 May, while all the others began on 1 November and ended on 31 May. Upon graduation, the student received a certificate of competency, but no license. The school period also included a six month's military training, and this is the reason that the Soviets never speak of four or five years of schooling, but of four-and-a half or five-and-a half years of professional schooling or training.
8. General education and professional instruction was in the hands of civilian teachers or instructors, and [redacted] that the teachers and instructors had excellent knowledge, and that the lessons were both thorough and interesting. Military training, an important matter at the navigation schools, was conducted by military instructors up to the rank of colonel. 25X1
9. Daily routine was organized according to military principles: Reveille at 0600, followed by washing and doing the beds; morning gymnastics, followed by breakfast and marching to school; at 0800, beginning of the lessons. From 0800 to 1200, lessons; from 1200 to 1400, midday recess; followed by professional or military instruction for two or three hours. Off-time occupation (sports) until 1800. Supper was followed by home work until 2200. Night rest, beginning at 2200, was interrupted by night marches at irregular intervals. Sometimes such exercises were previously announced; sometimes they were ordered quite unexpectedly. On Saturdays, service was finished at 1200. The students could spend their off-time as they liked, generally in sports and games. They were granted town leave under ordinary circumstances. Off-time was cancelled for military training scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays. All students attending Soviet navigation schools received full military training. They received instruction on all weapons used by the Navy, ranging from pistol to torpedo. This naval training was conducted at the nearby naval units. The students had their hair cut short, military-fashion during the entire period of schooling. Gold chevrons on the left sleeve indicated the various courses they attended. The students of the first term wore one chevron, those of the second course two chevrons, and so forth.
10. The students received their training afloat aboard training ships or converted freighters. [redacted] This training took place from 1 June to 31 August, and subsequently the students were granted a two month home leave. Those who did not want to go on leave could spend the two months aboard the training vessel until the beginning of the courses ashore. The time the students spent on shipboard was counted double. 25X1
11. Each student was drafted for six months naval training after he passed his examination. Since he had received basic training during his school time, he embarked aboard a war vessel for practical training. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Upon leaving the naval service on completion of this training period, the students had the rank of junior-lieutenant in the reserve. This promotion meant the end of professional schooling and training. To obtain his license as seagoing engineer I class, the candidate had to serve in ships having an engine power of not under 1,500 HP, for six months as a fireman, six months as an assistant engineer, twelve months as fourth or third engineer, and twenty-four months as second engineer. All ship's engineers of the Soviet merchant fleet were bound to

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

-4-

report for a yearly theoretical examination before an examining board of two engineers of the respective Torgflot (regional merchant fleet). In this manner, the engineers were forced to brush up and expand their theoretical knowledge.

12. Nautical ship's officers and ship's engineers were drafted to serve two months as reservists in the Navy every other year. Upon completion of this training, they were eligible for promotion.

in case of war, the officers of the merchant marine would be drafted by the Navy and would receive assignments corresponding to their rank.

25X1

13. The ranks of the reserve officers are of the same sequence as those of the career officers, except for the non-existing rank of lieutenant commander (kapitan leitenant). The ranks in order of sequence are:

Junior-lieutenant (R)	(Mladshiy leytenant v zapase)
Lieutenant (SMR)	(Leytenant v zapase)
Captain Third Rank	(Kapitan tretyego ranga)
Captain Second Rank	(Kapitan vtorogo ranga)
Captain First Rank	(Kapitan pervogo ranga)

The sleeve stripes of the reserve officers differ in length from those of the officers on the active list. In addition, the reserve officers wear a rhombus instead of the stars worn over the stripes of the career officers.

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T